

## **A Day at the Bullfight**

A few possibilities for a school-wide festival

Stage a mock bullfight - Use gym and set up a "sunny" and a "shady" side, vendors "sell" tickets and refreshments; students are assigned mock roles including that of the bulls, etc. (School band participates in the paseo? If not, use recordings.)

Stage a running of the bulls, (and some demos of French "bull games"?) perhaps as a prelude to the bullfight

Pre mock bullfight activities: Set up various areas/stations through which to move your audience. Purpose is to learn about the bullfight and its various forms, as well as its connections with literature, art, music, etc..

Possibilities include:

Illustrated explanations/presentations giving a general overview of the bullfight (the entry parade, the initial cape work, the banderillas, etc. )  
Use films, PowerPoint's, live demos, posters, etc. Provide demonstrations of the two forms of French "Bull Games" and comic toro bullfighting. Could let observers become participants. The bull could be a teacher or a student, or use the carretilla, the device used to train bullfighters. It consists of a simulated bull mounted on a wheel, for example, and propelled by one of the bullfighter's assistants.

Show bullfight feature films.

Prepare and sell authentic Hispanic and southern French foods.

Perform dramatic readings - in Spanish, French, English - of Lorca's "Llanto por Sanchez Mejias".

Hold "book talks" or have a "library corner" for audience to peruse bullfighting books (could sell some paperbacks such as "Toro Toro", "Shadow of a Bull", Ferdinand the Bull", Hemingway's "Death in the Afternoon" or "The Sun also Rises")

Hold debates in English, Spanish, and French on controversial aspects of the bullfight. Teachers of speech or English could be the judges. Possible topics include: Is bullfighting an art? Is bullfighting cruel? Should women be allowed in bullfights? (See "To Discuss" list in session handouts.)

Hold essay contests on pre-assigned topics such as "Why I do or do not like bullfights", "My favorite bullfighter". Could also stage poetry contests (cinquains/ calligrammes, etc.)

Hold poster/cartel contests or simply have an art workshop where students try their hand at copying the bullfight representations of their favorite artists. The workshop might even include making posters/cartels for the mock bullfight that will occur later, or creating maps to show where bullfights are held, or where bulls are bred. Make sketches of the ranches or posters showing the life of a fighting bull.

Crafts: Using paper maché, bar soap, dolls and other materials, make small-scale bullrings, bulls, picadors, etc. Have a banderilla making contest - crepe paper can be wound around wooden dowels and barbs can be made of cardboard and covered with aluminum foil.

Prepare virtual museum(s) for: posters of famous artwork associated with bullfighting, bullfight memorabilia, etc. Create a "first art museum" - a cave with prehistoric art. Or have an "art walk" which begins with the cave and ends in a "modern art museum" with works by Picasso, etc.

Bullfight music/flamenco dancing: have listening stations, hold mini workshops, etc

Stage scenes from Carmen with live actors or puppets

Have "travel agent" stations where the areas of bullfighting, including la Camargue in France, etc, are promoted. Or use PowerPoint's, movies, brochures, etc to take the audience on virtual trips.